

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 240912Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO RUEHCXSECSTATE WASHDC 9344

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 12849

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RP, ME

SUBJECT: ISLAMIC SECRETARY GAYE VISITS PHILIPPINES

1. SUMMARY: HEAD OF ISLAMIC SECRETARIAT AND ENTOURAGE
(INCLUDING TWO LIBYANS) VISITED PHILIPPINES AUGUST 20-24.
THEY MADE WHIRLWIND TOUR OF QUAKE DEVASTATED MUSLIM AREAS
IN SOUTH AND MET TWICE WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS. LOCAL PRESS
COVERAGE IS PREDICTABLY CLAIMING THAT VISIT WAS YET
ANOTHER "BREAKTHROUGH" FOR GOP'S THIRD WORLD DIPLOMACY
AND MAKES MUCH OF FACT THAT PRESIDENT FORMALLY INVITED
QADHAFI TO VISIT PHILIPPINES. AS YET WE HAVE NO READING
OF GAYE'S REAL IMPRESSIONS (WHICH MAY HAVE SOME BEARING
ON FUTURE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE HANDLING OF PHILIPPINE MUSLIM
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PROBLEM) OR WHETHER HE WILL ATTEMPT TO CONTINUE

MEDIATOR ROLE VIS-A-VIZ REBELS WHICH WAS ASSUMED
(TO ANNOYANCE OF GOP) BY HIS PREDECESSOR, AL TOHAMY.
FURTHER READOUT FROM INFO ADDRESSEES APPRECIATED.

END SUMMARY.

2. SECRETARY GENERAL OF ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS
CONFERENCE, AMADOU KARIM GAYE OF SENEGAL, ARRIVED IN
MANILA AUGUST 20 AND IMMEDIATELY PROCEEDED ON TWO-
DAY INSPECTOR TOUR OF QUAKE-DEVASTATED MUSLIM AREAS
IN MINDANAO AND SULU, INCLUDING BRIEF STOPS IN
ZAMBOANGA, JOLO, COTABATO AND MARAWI CITY. TIMING
OF VISIT APPARENTLY HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH EARTHQUAKE
BUT RESULTED FROM FACT THAT GAYE ATTENDED NAC
CONFERENCE IN COLOMBO, WHERE GOP REPS RENEWED
STANDING INVITATION FOR HIM TO VISIT PHILIPPINES.
GAYE ENTOURAGE INCLUDED FOREIGN MINISTER ASSANE
SECK OF SENEGAL, UNDERSECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
DR. ALI AL-TREKI OF LIBYA, MOFA DIRECTOR GENERAL
MOHAMMAD DARMAN OF SOMALIA, ARIF BIN MUSA OF ISLAMIC
SECRETARIAT, SENEGAL AMBASSADOR TO INDIA BABACAR
DIOF, ASSISTANT TO SENEGALESE FORMIN SHEIKH COLY,
AND ASSISTANT TO LIBYAN UNDERSECRETARY SIFAW Y. HAFIANAH.
THUS, THREE OUT OF FOUR MEMBERS OF "COMMITTEE OF FOUR"
REPRESENTED. ("COMMITTEE" IS SUSIDIARY OF ISLAMIC
CONFERENCE WHICH IS CHARGED WITH OVERSIGHT
OF PHILIPPINE MUSLIM PROBELM; FOURTH MEMBER IS SAUDI
ARABIA.)

3. GOP GAVE VISIT MAXIMUM PUBLICITY. GAYE AND PARTY
MET TWICE WITH MARCOS -- ONCE IN ZAMBOANGA, WHERE
THEY WERE BRIEFED ON MUSLIM SITUATION AND
EARTHQUAKE RELIEF, AND AT MARCOS-HOSTED LUNCHEON IN
MANILA AUGUST 23. FOLLOWING LATTER IT WAS ANNOUNCED
THAT MARCOS HAD INVITED QADHAFI TO VISIT PHILIPPINES.
RECIPROCAL INVITATION TO VISIT TRIPOLI EXTENDED TO MRS.
MARCOS BY UNDERSECRETARY AL-TREKI. DISTRUBING NOTE
OCCURRED WHEN SECTION OF EARTHQUAKE-DAMAGED
CONCRETE WHARF COLLAPSED UNDER ISLAMIC DIGNITARIES
IN BANAGO, LANA DEL SUR, RESULTING IN BRUISES AND SCRAPES
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FOR SOME. OTHERWISE, VISIT AS REVEALED BY PRESS WAS ALL
SWEETNESS AND LIGHT. ON BEHALF OF ISLAMIC CONFERENCE
GAYE PROFFERED \$1.0 MILLION OF EARTHQUAKE RELIEF
AID. GOP RESPONSE WAS NONCOMMITTAL, IN LINE WITH
CURRENT POLICY OF SELF-RELIANCE IN DISASTER RELIEF.
ACCORDING PRESS, GAYE SAID HIS CONFIDENCE IN PHILIPPINE
ABILITY TO SOLVE SOUTHERN PROBLEM HAD BEEN REINFORCED.

4. COMMENT: AS YET WE HAVE NO READING OF WHAT GAYE'S REAL REACTION MAY HAVE BEEN TO WHIRLWIND TOUR OF SOUTH. NOR DOES PRESS COVERAGE INDICATE WHETHER GAYE WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS OF HIS PREDECESSOR, AL TOHAMY, TO MEDIANE PHILIPPINE MUSLIM INSURGENCY -- AN EFFORT WHICH PROVED INCREASINGLY DISTASTEFUL TO GOP. ISLAMIC ENVOYS PRESUMABLY NOTED GOP'S UNDISGUISED ASSUMPTION THAT EARTHQUAKE MAY DIMINISH MUSLIM REBELS' WILL TO RESIST. AT AUSUT 21 PRESS CONFERENCE, PRESIDENT MARCOS REFERRED TO THIS AS "THE SILVER LINGING IN THE CLOUD," WHILE MILITARY COMMANDER IN SOUTH, ADMIRAL ESPALDON, HAS BEEN TELLING REPORTERS THAT VILLAGE MOSQUE LEADERS (IMAMS) ARE NOW PREACHING THAT QUAKE WAS ALLAH'S PUNISHMENT FOR ACTS OF TERRORISM, SCHOOL BURNINGS, ETC. SINCE DELEGATION IMPRESSIONS WILL PRESUMBLY HAVE SOME IMPACT ON FUTURE "COMMITTEE OF FOUR" DELIBERATIONS, WE WOULD APPRECIATE ADDITIONAL READOUT FROM INFO ADDRESSEES AS AVAILABLE.

5. INVITIUTION TO QADHAFI AND PROFESSIONS OF PHILIPPINE-LIBYAN FRIENDSHIP WERE TRANSPARENT PRESS AGENCY SINCE MARCOS IS WELL AWARE THAT LIBYAN LEADERS MAKES NO BONES ABOUT CONTINUING AID TO MUSLIM INSURGENTS HERE.
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